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IPIB Monthly Column

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Margaret Johnson, Executive Director

The Iowa Public Information Board Celebrates Sunshine Week in Iowa

The Iowa Public Information Board (IPIB) will highlight Sunshine Week in Iowa at their monthly meeting on Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 1:00 p.m. The short presentation at the beginning of the meeting will reflect upon the creation and early days of the IPIB's work to promote transparency including the reading of the Governor's proclamation.

Sunshine Week is a nationwide event to educate the public about the importance of open government and transparency. It coincides each year with James Madison's birthday, and National Freedom of Information Day. Sunshine Week is a celebration of access to information and what it means for communities and citizens in our state and across the country. It provides an opportunity to highlight the importance of access to information as a cornerstone of democracy.

March 13 - 19, 2022 will be celebrated as Sunshine Week in Iowa and will commemorate the anniversary of James Madison's birth. Throughout the year, the IPIB works to support public access to government records, increase information provided electronically, and ensure that all meetings of deliberative bodies are fully noticed and open to the public.

The Iowa Public Information Board was created in 2012 to provide a free, efficient way for Iowans to receive information and resolve complaints related to Iowa's open meetings and public records laws. It promotes and educates Iowans about transparency within our government. The IPIB works with Iowa's governmental bodies, the media, and the citizenry at large. The vast majority of complaints are settled informally, with a negotiated compromise that satisfies both parties, reduces community conflict, and results in increased government transparency. For more information about the IPIB, please visit: www.ipib.iowa.gov.

Did You Know that the Iowa Public Information Board staff is available to assist you with questions or problems involving open meetings and public records in Iowa? During the month of February 2022, 80 contacts were made with the Iowa Public Information Board office.

TYPE February 2022

Formal complaints 9

Advisory opinions 0

Board Members

Joan Corbin • E. J. Giovannetti • Barry Lindahl • Keith Luchtel • Monica McHugh
Frederick Morain • Julie Pottorff • Suzan Stewart • vacant

Declaratory orders	0
Informal complaints	15
Informal requests	43
Miscellaneous	13
TOTAL:	80

Who can contact the IPIB and how long does it take? Any person can contact the IPIB for assistance by telephone (515-725-1781), by email, or on the IPIB website. In 2022, 133 identifiable people contacted the IPIB. Of these, 82 were private citizens, 38 were government officials or employees, and 13 were members of the media. In 2022, 73% of the incoming contacts were resolved the first day, 16% were resolved in one to five days, and 11% were resolved in six or more days. Opinions, rulings, FAQs, reports, and training documents are available on the IPIB website – www.ipib.iowa.gov.